

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 2, 2004, raises only one issue, and this issue is addressed above. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early formal allowance.

This application contains only claims 6 and 8. No rejections have been imposed against claims 6 and 8 on the basis of any prior art, whereby applicants understand that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103.

The only issue is the rejection of claims 6 and 8 under the second paragraph of Section 112, the examiner objecting specifically to the word "associated" in the phrase "a degenerative disease associated with head injury" in claim 6. While this rejection is traversed, it is nevertheless believed to be resolved by the amendment presented above.

In the amendment presented above, the term "associated with" has been replaced with the term "resulting from".

As indicated by applicants' traversal as expressed above, applicants believe that the claims as previously drafted, considered in light of applicants' specification (consistent with the law), would not have been confusing to those skilled in the art, and therefore the claims in their previous form are

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fully in accordance with Section 112. At **worst**, such claims in their previous form might be considered objectionable, but **only** as to form.

Nevertheless, in deference to the examiner's views and to avoid needless argumentation, the cosmetic amendment noted above has been made to place the claims in better form consistent with the examiner's understanding of what is necessary or desirable under U.S. practice. Such an amendment is of a formal nature only, and is not a "narrowing" amendment because the meaning of the claims remains the same. No limitations have been added and none are intended.

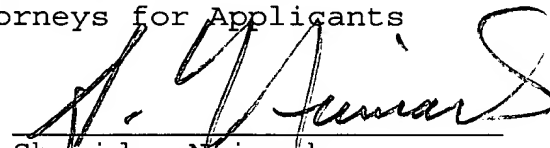
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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